

The Decisive Moment

By ALFRED DENNISON

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The marvelous loyalty of India to Great Britain was the most significant thing in the whole of the great war. In one quarter only was there dissatisfaction. That was the little state of Bundapur, in central India. Bundapur was the birthplace of the ferocious worship of the goddess Kali, the murder-goddess. For centuries this fierce idolatry had been decaying, but of late years there had been an effort to revive it.

Now Bundapur had strong links of contact with other idolatrous states of India. If the rajah of Bundapur took advantage of England's need to throw off her yoke, he would be joined by other potentates, and the flame of revolt would spread all through the central provinces.

It was Mantering's task to preserve peace in Bundapur. He was the British resident there, and the power behind the throne. There were two other rulers in the turbulent little state—the Rajah Ferrozshah, whose ancestors had been Moslems and had become idolaters in order to retain their hold upon the kingdom, and Muzzur, the chief priest, who officiated in the magnificent temple of the goddess, to which votaries came from all parts of India.

Mantering and old Muzzur were good friends, for the British government scrupulously respects all faiths in its dominions, but when opportunity comes, friendship goes. And opportunity had come with the war to the old king Ferrozshah, who dreamed of carving out for himself an empire which was to embrace all central India.

Mantering was engaged to an English girl, who was to have come out to him.



The Old Priest Watched Him With a Severe Face.

to marry him when the war began. That postponed matters, and Mantering, chafing under the delay, could only continue to administer the affairs of the kingdom, as the representative of the British raj. He had not a single white soldier to maintain his authority, for they had all been withdrawn. Meanwhile the annual festival of the goddess Kali was approaching.

Mantering had a shrewd idea of what was brewing in Bundapur. He had, in fact, had a frank talk with old Muzzur. He had shown him what it was no use showing the old king, because the priest's word alone could decide the issue. He had explained to him that England's might, temporarily withdrawn, would fall after the war with fearful force upon a rebellious Bundapur. Let Muzzur declare for England and rich would be his reward.

The old priest smoked and listened, and, while Mantering was wondering at his silence, a shower of stones came through the windows of the residence, thrown by the turbulent, fanatical mob without. The priest rose, smiling. "You see," he said, "the decision is not in my power, sahib. The people are very much attached to the faith of Kali, and they want to be free. Only one thing can keep them loyal."

"What is that?" asked Mantering.

"The priest leaned forward confidentially. 'If the sahib will also accept the faith of Kali, the people will hear his words,' he said.

When he was gone, and the few native servants had dispersed the mob, Mantering paced his room, thinking.

He was a sincerely religious man; he believed that to become an idolater would have certain spiritual consequences; he knew that it meant the loss of Mary Trevelthan, but he had loved since he was a boy. But, if a man should sacrifice his life for his country, how much the more should he not sacrifice his soul for her, and the woman he loves?

The struggle lasted all night. At dawn he sent for the priest.

"Muzzur," said Mantering, "prepare a proclamation for the people stating that I have decided to accept the faith of Kali, and that I shall attend at the temple tomorrow, when the annual festival begins, to prostrate myself before the goddess."

The old priest watched him with a serene face. He knew the struggle that Mantering had gone through; he knew, too, that the rajah would not be overpleased at this dramatic ending of all his plans for carving out an idolatrous empire in the heart of India.

hants of the state knew that the goddess Kali, of the many hands, had conquered. The enthusiasm was indescribable. A huge mob gathered outside the residency and cheered itself hoarse. But inside Mantering was pacing up and down, and he paced all night, and none dared disturb him.

At dawn he called the bearers of his palanquin, and, stepping inside, he allowed himself to be borne through the enthusiastic mobs that lined the streets toward Kali's temple. Bundapur was en fête. The opening of the great annual festival was the occasion for frenzies of fanatical delight, and the approaching conversion of Mantering was the cause of the wildest excitement. Through the streets rushed fanatics, slashing themselves with knives. The golden image of the goddess was borne back from the procession to the accompaniment of a band of temple women, who danced and leaped above the bodies of the prostrate devotees.

Mantering, lying in his palanquin, was aware of all this. He knew that no punishment could expiate his offense. He was giving to his country that which was infinitely dearer than life. His love, his soul, his honor.

He stared at the photograph which he was holding. It represented Mary Trevelthan as she had appeared when he was home four years before. He would never see her again, but somehow he felt that, at this crisis where dishonor and honor met, her spirit stood beside him.

The palanquin stopped. The curtains were drawn back. Mantering stepped out and entered the grotesque temple, walking on a path strewn with flowers. Inside he heard the throbbing of flutes and the sighs of a vast multitude of worshippers. Then he was before the altar, beside old Muzzur, who held the sacrificial knife, and staring into his eyes were the cruel eyes of Kali, the stone image with the many hands, each dripping with human blood.

Upon his golden throne loomed the old rajah. He was calculating what step he should take when Mantering had accepted Kali. It upset the plans that he had built; yet he was shrewd enough to have others in view. With Mantering's aid he could yet carve out his empire.

Mantering, standing beside the priest, let his eyes roam over the huge interior of the temple. He saw the decorated walls, the breathless crowd, completely silent, waiting for the moment when he would fall before Kali's statue, to be anointed with the blood of the dreadful sacrifice, the drawn curtains behind which the rajah's wives were gazing curiously on him.

And at the last moment, while the sound of the tom-toms indicated that the goddess was awaiting the sacrifice, a new thought took possession of Mantering. He could not carry out his plan.

He perceived the hideous pit into which he had so nearly fallen. The world would ascribe his compliance to fear; it would be said that an Englishman had accepted Kali to save his life. Was not the empire built upon faith and loyalty, and the courage of her servants? How could he serve it better than by remaining true to his faith, whatever happened?

It was the moment of judgment, when, unless he saw his duty clear as a razor edge before him, incalculable ills must follow. Mantering saw it.

The blood of the sacrifice was drenching Kali's altar. Muzzur turned toward Mantering, motioning to him to prostrate himself. Mantering waved him away and called to the crowd.

"I have come here today," he said, "to testify to the truth. Since England became your lord, when has she sought to change your faith or customs? Nevertheless, I am here to tell you now that your faith in Kali is the faith of the sandpiper that walks among the marshes before the sand has set."

He heard a rustle, a sigh, and suddenly the whole body of worshippers was upon its feet in terror of the sacrilege that was being accomplished.

For, snatching from the priest's hand the hammer with which the victim had been slaughtered, Mantering brought it down upon the head of the abominable idol. And Kali, the many-handed goddess, fell from her pedestal and rolled, a hideous thing, along the temple floor.

Then, laying down the hammer, Mantering awaited death. But since none dared lay hands on him, he went out into the street. He walked to the residency and waited. Twenty minutes later he heard the mob come roaring down the bazaar and toward the veranda on which he awaited them alone.

He stood there with folded arms, patient, ready for the vengeance of the fanatical multitude. But, when they reached him, he found himself standing above a prostrate crowd of worshippers. For even black-skinned people grope upward toward the higher, and by his act the worship of the murder goddess had been swept away for ever.

Simple Sanitary System For the Farm Home

By R. W. TRULLINGER.



SIMPLE sanitary system for the farm has four distinct features. It provides for: (1) A pure water supply. (2) Pumping, storage and distribution of water supply. (3) A durable and simple plumbing system. (4) A safe disposal for farm sewage.

A pure water supply is one of the most important factors in farm life today, as typhoid fever, dysentery and other disorders may be carried by impure waters. Farm water supplies are very subject to pollution. Of 79 typical water supplies in Minnesota, investigations showed that 20 were good and 59 polluted. Twenty-five of those polluted were bad only because of poor surface protection, and could easily have been made safe. Practically all the surface supplies were polluted. During these investigations 23 of the farms examined showed a record of typhoid fever.

Surface water supplies should not be used for household purposes, or for washing milk cans. They should not even be used for laundry purposes unless no other water supply is available. Rain water from the roof is often polluted by dust, leaves and droppings from birds. Any person who drinks water from surface supplies endangers his health if such supplies are not adequately protected and then purified.

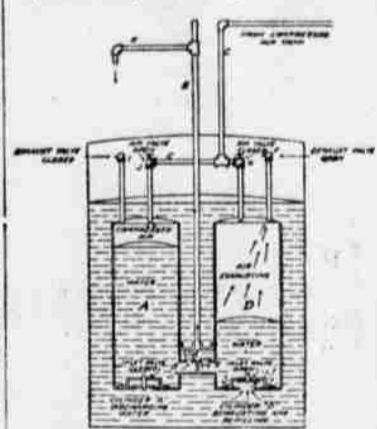
Where underground waters are hard to obtain, cisterns may be used where the store of rain water and surface supplies will be filtered and partially purified.

The cistern should be of water-tight construction, to prevent leakage and to prevent pollution from the neighboring soil. It should have an overflow drain and a tight cover. There should also be suitable provision for straining or filtering the water previous to its entrance to the cistern.

Farm wells are often polluted from local sources. They are often located for convenience near the barn or stable, or close to the back door, out-

drains for farm buildings and stock pens. Under the same conditions concrete manure pits might well be provided not only to prevent the liquid manure from polluting the neighboring soil but to save the manure. No garbage, manure or rubbish should be dumped into sinks or basins in the immediate neighborhood, and these should be fenced off and kept free from polluting matter.

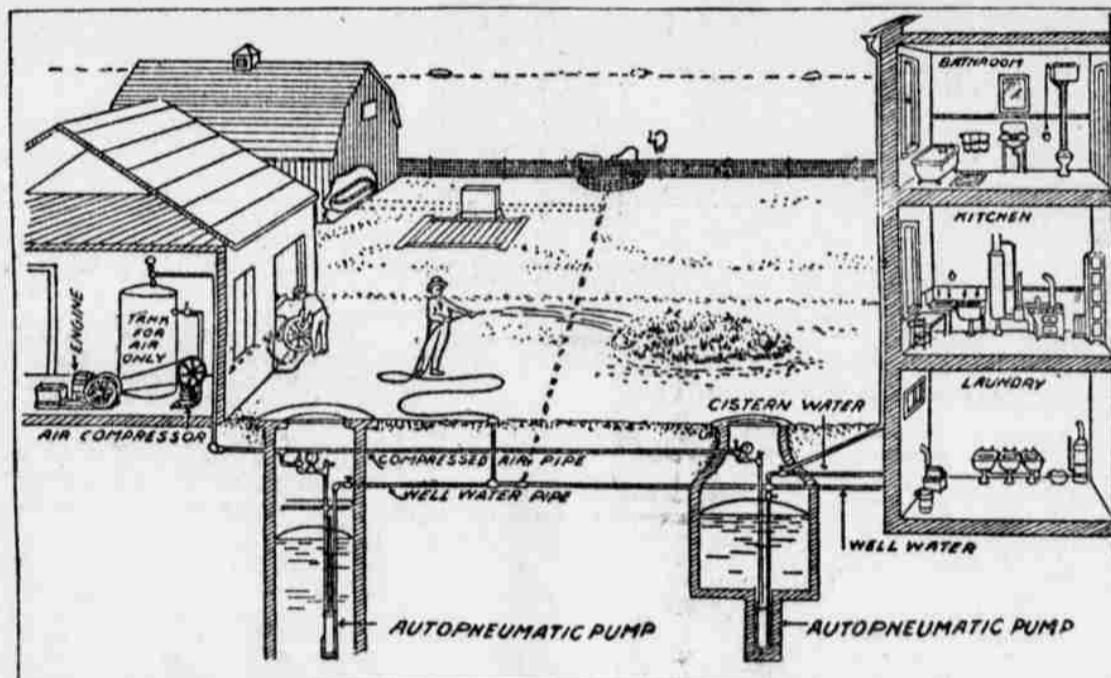
The house should be provided with some safe method of sewage disposal, while slops and garbage from the kitchen should be deposited in tightly covered garbage cans and disposed of by burying in the fields, burning, or feeding to pigs. The use of privy vaults and leaching or overflowing cesspools should be absolutely avoided, since they are likely to be sources



Principle of Operation of an Autoneumatic Pump.

of the worst contamination. The farmer should become acquainted with the various types of wells and the best methods of protection, and the well should be so protected as to exclude filth from those sources of contamination which it has been impossible to remove or which have been overlooked.

In the selection, location and sinking of a well it is always a good idea to consider permanence in addition to safety. The well should penetrate to



Application of Autoneumatic System to a Farm Home.

of which household slops are thrown. The soil surrounding the well becomes saturated with organic filth and allows the surface water percolating through it to carry its load of contamination into the well.

The curbing or covering is often loosely constructed of boards, permitting small animals and vermin to fall into the well; and surface water carrying filth and manure, especially after rains, runs into the well from the top.

Both deep and shallow wells are subject to contamination. Of 177 deep and 411 shallow farm wells examined in Indiana, 116 of the deep well waters were of good quality, 45 were bad, and 16 were doubtful; 159 of the shallow well waters were good, 209 were very bad, and 43 were doubtful.

The safety of water supplies when near sources of possible surface pollution often depends largely on the character and quality of the material in which the well is sunk.

The farm well, especially a shallow dug well, should be located somewhat above the barnyards, and stock pens, at least in such a position that the surface drainage from all possible sources of contamination is away from the well.

If local conditions and prices will permit, it is a good idea to provide impervious floors with water-tight

levels below that of the ground-water surface in the driest seasons.

Unpolluted springs are as a rule good sources of water supply, since the water usually comes from great depths within the rock or is filtered through many layers of sand and gravel. However, springs are subject to pollution from the same sources as wells and should be closely watched in this respect. Farm spring supplies are often polluted by the drainage from buildings and stock pens. Spring water supplies from limestone are also subject to pollution from distant garbage and sewage dumps in sinkholes. The same precautions should be taken for safeguarding spring supplies as in the case of wells, and in addition the spring should always be fenced to keep out the stock. Spring supplies should be frequently examined for pollution of any kind, and the water should be boiled before drinking, if possible, although this is not absolutely necessary in all cases.

After a pure water supply has been made available for the farm home, the quantity of water needed must be considered. A suitable pumping equipment must be chosen and then a satisfactory means for distributing and storing the water must be provided.

Hand-operated systems are applicable where small quantities are re-

quired for house service only, but in case water is wanted for stock also the use of a windmill, engine, electric motor, or hydraulic ram is necessary. If a windmill is used the storage should be large enough for at least three days' supply, to provide water in case of calm weather. Where the other sources of power are used the storage capacity need not exceed one day's supply.

The pumping system for the average farm home should be simple and its material and construction should be durable. Water pipes should be arranged so as to carry the water in as nearly a straight line as possible to the point of discharge. The use of lead pipe or lead-lined receptacles for drinking water should be avoided in small private systems.

The sewer plumbing serves as a drain for the water plumbing. The drainage system should be so constructed as to carry away completely everything emptied into it, and it should be constantly vented, frequently and thoroughly flushed, and have each of its openings into the house securely guarded. All drains, soil pipe, and waste pipe should be water-tight and air-tight. All plumbing should be tested by filling with water or smoke to detect leaks.

An excellent process of sewage disposal is partly mechanical and partly bacterial, consisting of a preliminary septic tank treatment and of final treatment by application to a natural soil by surface or subsurface distribution, or to a specially prepared filter. The septic tank, although air-tight and supposedly water-tight, should be located as far from the house and the well or spring as convenience and local surroundings will permit, thus reducing the danger of pollution or nuisance in case of leakage or improper operation of the system.

Contrary to the usual opinion, small sewage systems require some watching and care. It is well to study the system and watch the action in the entire plant for any signs of clogging or water-logging. If the sewage is applied continuously to the final disposal system and in such quantities that the system is kept saturated, the filter or disposal area becomes water-logged and "sewage sick" and ceases to be effective. A grease trap is described which acts as a separator of grease and sewage from the kitchen sink or dairy room. If grease is allowed to enter the sewer it accumulates and eventually clogs the system.

The above features are described in Bulletin No. 57 of United States agri-

SOUP KITCHENS IN BELGIUM

How the Gigantic Work of Relieving a Starving Nation is Being Conducted.

The soup kitchen organized in Brussels by the American commission for relief is now undoubtedly the largest in the world. Nearly fifty thousand people entirely destitute wait in the "bread lines" every day, and over six thousand gallons of soup and four thousand kilograms of bread are daily distributed to them.

"Unlike the bread lines I have seen in America," says a report from one of the representatives in Brussels, "these are all people of one nationality and all with a common and undeserved misfortune. They are of all classes, but we know none of them save by number, because no matter what their station or the extent of their misfortune they still have honour, property, and many of them, if they were compelled to write their names on coupons when they get the soup, would rather starve than take it. None of them think that they will always have to be in the bread lines, and every one of them feels that when it is all over they will want to forget that they have been destitute."

The soup for these pitiful flocks and flocks of war is all prepared in the large storehouses of the International Express Company Van Gant. More than one hundred people are engaged in this work. Among them are former chefs of some of the leading hotels of Brussels, who give direction as to the kind and quality of the soup, its ingredients and their proportions. Under them are those who clean the vegetables—potatoes, carrots, beans, etc.—and prepare the meat. This entire staff is composed of volunteers, except the chefs, who receive at the most half a dollar a day.

From three o'clock in the morning, when the cooking of the first 5,000 gallons of soup is started, the scene in the circuslike storehouse of the express company is one of tremendous activity with the moving figures of the hundred white-clad chefs, the fire ablaze under scores of immense cauldrons—all dimly seen through the shifting clouds of pungent steam rising from the boiling soup.

When the soup is cooked it is sent, under the seals of the commission and under the protection of the American flag, in large lorries to the twenty-one canteens scattered all over Brussels. These canteens were formerly schools, dance halls, Turkish baths, etc. During the morning, wherever one goes, women and children may be seen coming and going with pitchers of steaming soup and their rations of bread under their arms.

Mourning Industry.

One French industry that has grown apace since the beginning of August is the making of those funeral wreaths with which the cemeteries in France are always so primly decorated. Many a soldier's grave is marked today only by a cross and a cheap little tricolor waving gloriously in the transient sunshine, but there is a big demand among those who may bring their lost ones nearer home to rest for the conventional mourning wreaths. The shop windows are filled with these things and with promises that orders will be instantly fulfilled at the work-shops.

One imagines that the very finicky work must keep a large number of girls employed, for all those elaborately twisted designs of flowers and foliage are made of wire strung with the tiniest of beads, and enormous quantities must be used for every wreath. The designs do not seem to have varied. The favorite is still the wreath of heartsease worked out in melancholy livid shades of purple, blue and gray-green, but the words in running script across the design are "Mort pour la Patrie."

Real Possum Hollow Discovered.

That Possum Hollow is an actual place, and not a handy name for fictionists is proved by the Putnam County Journal's country correspondence. The staff correspondent at Possum Hollow writes that James Kenney visited his sister, James Kenney and wife called on Will Brancomb and wife, Ed Kenney and others out and hauled their uncle, James Kenney, a new lot of wood; Mrs. Dora Thompson helped her aunt, Mrs. Kenney, cook for the men who cut and hauled wood for Mr. and Mrs. James Kenney; Will Brancomb and family moved to the place Will rented from James Kenney; Mortimer Hill and his sister Ruth called on James Kenney and wife. It is to be taken for granted that James Kenney is the most popular citizen of Possum Hollow.

Home for Girls.

Varick house is a six-story building in New York which has been opened for the benefit of the factory girls, where they may obtain room and board for prices ranging from \$4 to \$4.75 a week. There is a sewing room with machines with electrical connection, where the girls may make their own dresses. The rooms are all single, with the exception of one on each floor, and each contains an easy chair, chiffonier, bed, desk, table and side chair. Any working girl may become a resident. Miss Margaret Shearer, recent Bryn Mawr graduate, is in charge.

Might Help Some.

"I am willing to give a woman what her ability entitles her to, but I don't think a woman should get a man's wages."

"I wish you would say that to my wife."

Ancient Writing Implements.

When writing, Confucius used a small brush, like a camel-hair brush, for a pen, and so did his ancestors for centuries before his time. The reed came into use for writing in the marshy countries of the Orient. It was hollow and cut in short lengths.

Our Work.

It's as simple as the rule of three. If we make light of our work by using it for our own ends, our work will make light of us, and we are the weaker, we shall suffer.—Kipling.

NO ABUSE OF POWER

Charge That President Is a Despot Is Futile.

Republican Press Unable to Point to a Single Instance of Intimidation of a Legislator by the Chief Executive.

Many presidents have purchased support in the house or the senate by the use of patronage. Mr. Wilson's bitterest opponent makes no such charge against him.

Certain presidents have sought to coerce recalcitrant members of congress by publicly attacking them. Mr. Wilson has done nothing like that.

Other presidents have tried to bring hostile senators and representatives into line by holding over their heads the power of the national organization and threatening them with defeat. No such indictment has been brought against Mr. Wilson.

More than one president has been accused of making deals with congressmen by which their support was obtained in consideration of executive approval of legislation in which they were interested. No accusation of that kind has been lodged against Mr. Wilson.

We are assured by a partisan Republican press that the president is a despot who rules the house with an iron hand, and that the senate has been engaged in desperate battle to maintain its independence against usurpation. But when? And how? And where?

What influence has President Wilson exerted upon congress except the influence of advice and counsel? What command does he exercise over the Democratic majority in Washington except the command of brain and character?

What member of congress can stand up and say that the president ever tried to intimidate him? What member can say that the president ever promised him anything or threatened him with anything?

What single instance of an abuse of executive power can be charged against President Wilson in his relations with congress? Yet we are asked to believe that he is an autocrat who has stripped the legislative branch of its constitutional prerogatives and made it a machine for registering his imperial decrees.

BUSINESS TIDE HAS TURNED

Increasing Signs That Prosperity is Spreading in All Parts of the Country.

There are multiplying signs that "the tide has turned," as President Farwell of the steel trust declared last week, and that a marked improvement in the general business situation is to be seen day by day.

The steel trust reports an increase of 411,928 tons in unfilled orders in January, and the number of men employed by it has been increased 25 per cent in that period. The first of the month the Carnegie Steel works resumed full operation, giving employment to between 8,000 and 9,000 men, and the American Steel and Wire company at Pittsburgh has taken on 2,500 more men and is running full time on new orders. The H. C. Frick Coke company has fired 2,500 new ovens within a few days.

From Chicago it is reported that within the last thirty days orders have been placed for \$30,000,000 worth of freight and passenger cars, locomotives and railroad materials, not including orders since January 1 for foreign governments. As a single instance, the Pennsylvania railroad has ordered 15,000 cars, costing \$12,000,000. Russia alone is reported to have placed orders amounting to \$12,000,000 with a Seattle car concern.

The calamity howlers who take comfort in shrieking bad times and the croaking politicians who seek to capitalize commercial disturbance due to the war will soon be without an issue. The prosperity of this country lies not with the pessimists, but with those who act on President Farwell's advice and have "the courage, not of destruction, but of construction."

Good Times Ahead.

As the age great producing country not engaged in war, all the rest of the world looks to the United States for food supplies and manufactures. The only check upon the growing export trade is the difficulty in securing charters. American goods have been moving abroad so rapidly that foreign exchange is below normal, and the \$20,000,000 in gold shipped to Canada last fall for the account of the Bank of England is beginning to flow back in payment for foreign purchases, although gold is the last thing the European powers want to surrender.

Stand With the President.

Senator Cummins of Iowa is supposed to be the political successor of Senator Allison, author of "the Iowa idea," which "favors a tariff with protection enough to please all manufacturers, but with schedules so arranged as to satisfy all consumers. In the eyes of such sleepsteepers anyone who holds strong and positive views on questions of public policy is a reactionary." Just at present there are a good many such persons, and most of them think very well of President Wilson.

The Difference.

And isn't it rather significant that fear of an extra session is always rampant when congress is Democratic?—New York Herald.

On such occasions it never is quite so rampant among consumers as when an extra session of a Mark Hanna congress is in prospect.

The only way President Wilson can please senators of the House and Congress is to make a failure of his administration. And he isn't planning them.